

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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INFO CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, KS

SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS ROK TANK, MILITARY AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION

1. ROK PRESS APRIL 7 HEADLINES PRESIDENT PAK CHONG HUI'S VISIT TO HYUNDAI TANK UPGRADE PLANT IN CHANGWON DEFENSE INDUSTRY COMPLEX. ARTICLES EMPHASIZED KOREA'S CAPABILITY TO MASS PRODUCE M48A3 AND M48A5 TANKS OF US DESIGN. WITH ACCENT DEFINITELY ON THE THEME THAT ROK WAS PRODUCING ITS OWN TANKS, ARTICLES EMPHASIZED THE HIGH QUALITY OF THE TANKS, NOTING THAT SOME HYUNDAI OFFICIALS HAD CLAIMED THAT ROK-PRODUCED TANKS WERE AT LEAST A GENERATION AHEAD OF NORTH KOREAN PRODUCED TANKS IN QUALITY. STORIES SAID THAT ROK-PRODUCED TANKS WERE THE EQUIVALENT OF THE US M60A1 IN FIRE-POWER AND MOBILITY YET WERE "PRODUCED" IN THE ROK FOR ONLY HALF OF THE M60'S REPORTED \$600,00 PRICE TAG.

3. THE HUNDAI FACTORY OBVIOUSLY PUT ON A FULL SCALE SHOW FOR THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRESS, DEMONSTRATING THE SPEED AND MANEUVERABILITY OF THE TANKS, AS WELL AS THEIR ARMORED STRENGTH AND SUBMERSIBLE QUALITIES.

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EACH PAPER CARRIED AN ACCOUNT BY ITS CORRESPONDENT OF THE SENSATION OF RIDING IN ONE OF THE TANKS AS IT MADE ITS WAY OVER OBSTACLES AND THROUGH THE SUBMERSION PROCESS. THE OBVIOUS PRIDE, DOUBTLESS CAREFULLY NURTERED BY THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION, IN THIS ROK ACCOMPLISHMENT, SHOWED CLEARLY IN EACH REPORT.

4. THE PRESIDENT OF HYUNDAI SHIPBUILDING CO., WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TANK UPGRADE PROGRAM, AND WILL PRODUCE THE PROTOTYPE, AND ULTIMATELY THE PRODUCTION MODEL OF THE KOREAN INDIGENOUS TANK, WAS OBVIOUSLY ELATED AT THE PRESS COVERAGE. DURING A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, HE SAID THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT HAS BEEN A COMPLETE SUCCESS.

5. PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING DOMESTIC TANK PRODUCTION WERE PRECEDED BY PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT AIR FORCE ACADEMY GRADUATION APRIL 4 IN WHICH HE WAS REPORTED IN ALL PAPERS TO HAVE SAID THAT THE ROK WOULD PRODUCE HIGH QUALITY ELECTRONIC WEAPONS AND AIRCRAFT IN THE MID-1980'S.

6. WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY EDITORIAL COMMENT THUS FAR ON EITHER OF THESE SUBJECTS.
SNEIDER

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